

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 have been amended and claims 4-18 have been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 1-18 are now in this case.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b):

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shimazu et al. (U.S. patent 5,379,350). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be withdrawn by the Examiner.

The system described in and taught by Shimazu et al. is very different from the invention claimed by Applicants. Shimazu et al. is directed toward the detection of vertices of a corner by extracting a closed-loop contour of an image part in a binary image including a plurality of pixels, the closed-loop contour being expressed by a vector sequence including a plurality of contour vectors each connecting vertices of the closed-loop contour. Each of the vertices is defined by boundary coordinate systems (Xb, Yb) indicating a position at a boundary between pixels (col. 1, lines 50-57). In Shimazu et al. the term "vertices" refers to any and all of the endpoints of vectors that are detected, regardless of the shape of the contour surrounding these points. The vectors described in Shimazu et al. are shown in Figures 15 and 16 and clearly depict the vectors as either horizontal or vertical (Va, Vb and Vc). The vectors are defined in such a manner because unit 44 detects vectors that are on the "Pixel Boundary Contour," and the pixel boundaries are either horizontal or vertical. Therefore, the angles formed by the vectors at the "vertices" as taught by Shimazu et al. are always a multiple of 90 degrees.

Shimazu does not teach or suggest either alone or in any known combination "identifying at least one corner of the at least one outline wherein said corner is identified by calculating the curvature of the outline in a neighborhood of a point on the outline and determining whether the curvature is at least a pre-defined minimum value," as recited in claim 1, or to identify "at least one corner having a relatively large average curvature of the at least one outline wherein said corner is identified by calculating the curvature of the outline in a neighborhood of a point on the outline and determining whether the curvature is at least a pre-defined minimum value," as recited in claims 2 and 3. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Shimazu et al. does not anticipate nor make obvious independent claim 1-3 of the Applicants' claimed invention.

Because, Shimazu et al. does not anticipate or make obvious any of the independent claims, it cannot anticipate or make obvious any of claims 4-18 which depend from independent claims 1, 2 or 3. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Shimazu et al. does not anticipate or make obvious Applicants' claimed invention and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn. Such action is respectfully solicited.

Finally, Applicants submit that the claims of the present invention are patentable over the non-applied references cited by the Examiner.

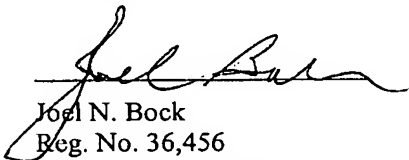
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that each of the claims of the above referenced application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully requested that the Examiner at his earliest convenience withdraw her rejection of the claims and issue a notice of allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney can be reached at (973) 912-7174 if the Examiner believes that oral communication with Applicants' attorney will expedite issuance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 30, 2005



Joel N. Bock
Reg. No. 36,456
Attorney for Applicants
SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
Phone: (973)912-7174